

In claim ~~8~~, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim ~~9~~, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim ~~10~~, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim ~~11~~, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim ~~12~~, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

N.E. In claim 14, at line 1, after "inhibitor" please insert --composition--.

In claim ~~16~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~17~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~18~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~19~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~20~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~21~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~22~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim ~~23~~, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 24, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 25, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 26, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

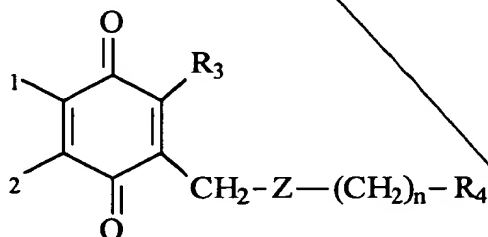
In claim 27, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

In claim 28, at line 1, please delete "inhibitor of" and after "production" please insert --inhibitor composition--.

Please add the following new claims 38-41:

③'
sub
C35

--38. A method for inhibiting NF-κB comprising administering to a patient in need of NF-κB inhibition a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):

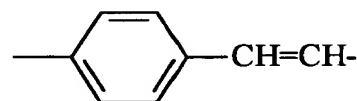
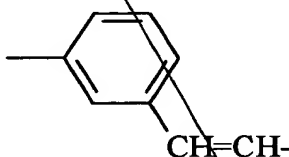
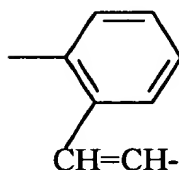
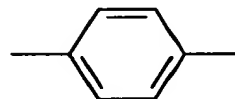
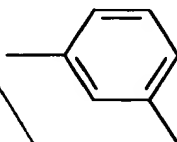
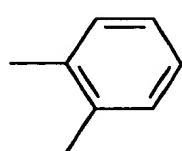


wherein

B'
C5
cont
R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

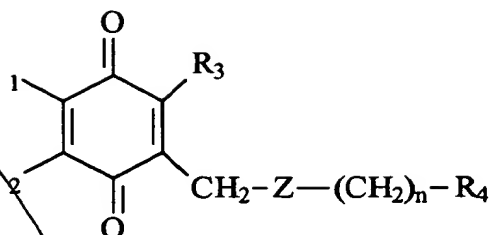
Z is



and, n is

an integer from 0 to 6, or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. A method for preventing or treating diseases caused by the activation of NF- κ B comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):

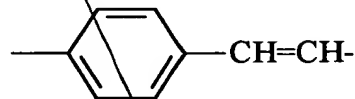
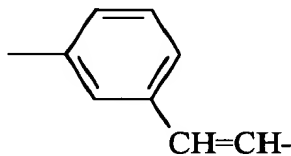
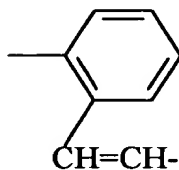
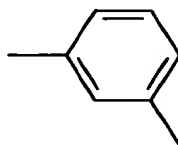
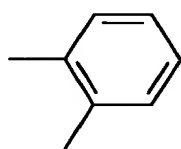


wherein

R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is

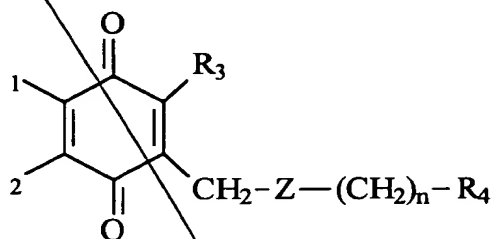


and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

C5
cont
B1

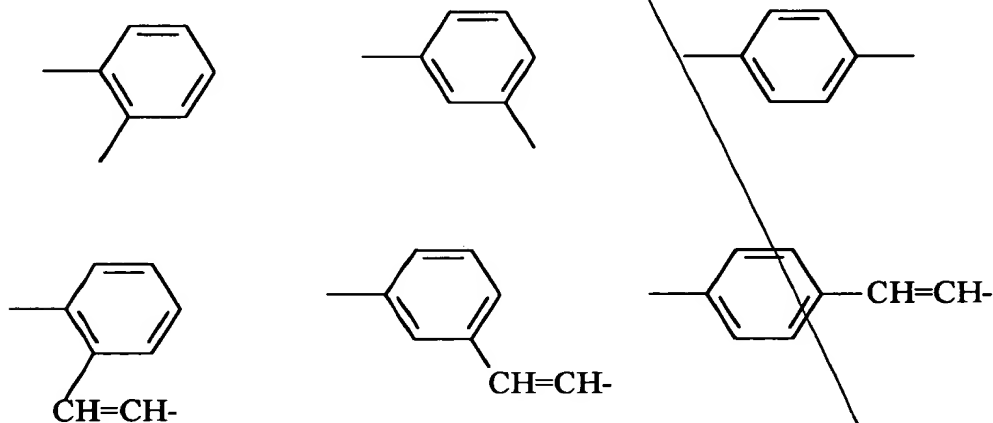
40. A method for inhibiting TNF- α production comprising administering to a patient in need of TNF- α inhibition a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is

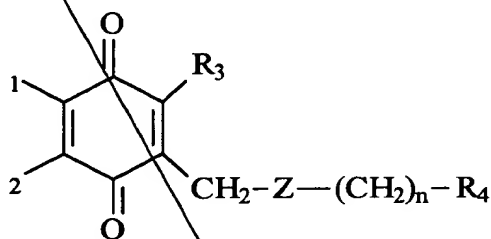


B'
C5
cont

and, n is an integer from 0 to 6,

or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41. A method for preventing or treating diseases caused by the excessive production of TNF- α comprising administering to a patient a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated;

Z is

